



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

July 30, 1997

Conny J. Frisch, Forest Supervisor
Kaibab National Forest
800 South Sixth Street
Williams, AZ 86046

Dear Mr. Frisch:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for **Tusayan Growth**. Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In the DEIS, the Forest Service identifies five alternatives: no action, two land exchange alternatives, a Townsite Act/Special Use Permit alternative, and a Transportation/Federal Housing alternative. The Forest Service has not identified a preferred alternative.

EPA commends the Forest Service for its excellent analysis of issues related to the expansion of lodging and related services near the South Entrance of Grand Canyon National Park. We concur that some form of development is necessary outside the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park to relieve traffic congestion and related impacts caused by increasing visitation and reliance on private vehicles. EPA is particularly impressed with the public transportation and water conservation proposals which have been built into the land exchange alternatives. We are also excited about the opportunity to increase the protection of wildlife, botanical, and cultural resources on the offered lands.

EPA rates this DEIS LO (Lack of Objections). We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please refer any questions to Leonidas Payne of my staff at (415) 744-1571.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David J. Farrel", is written over a horizontal line.

David J. Farrel, Chief
Federal Activities Office

Filename: tusayan.dei
MI002858